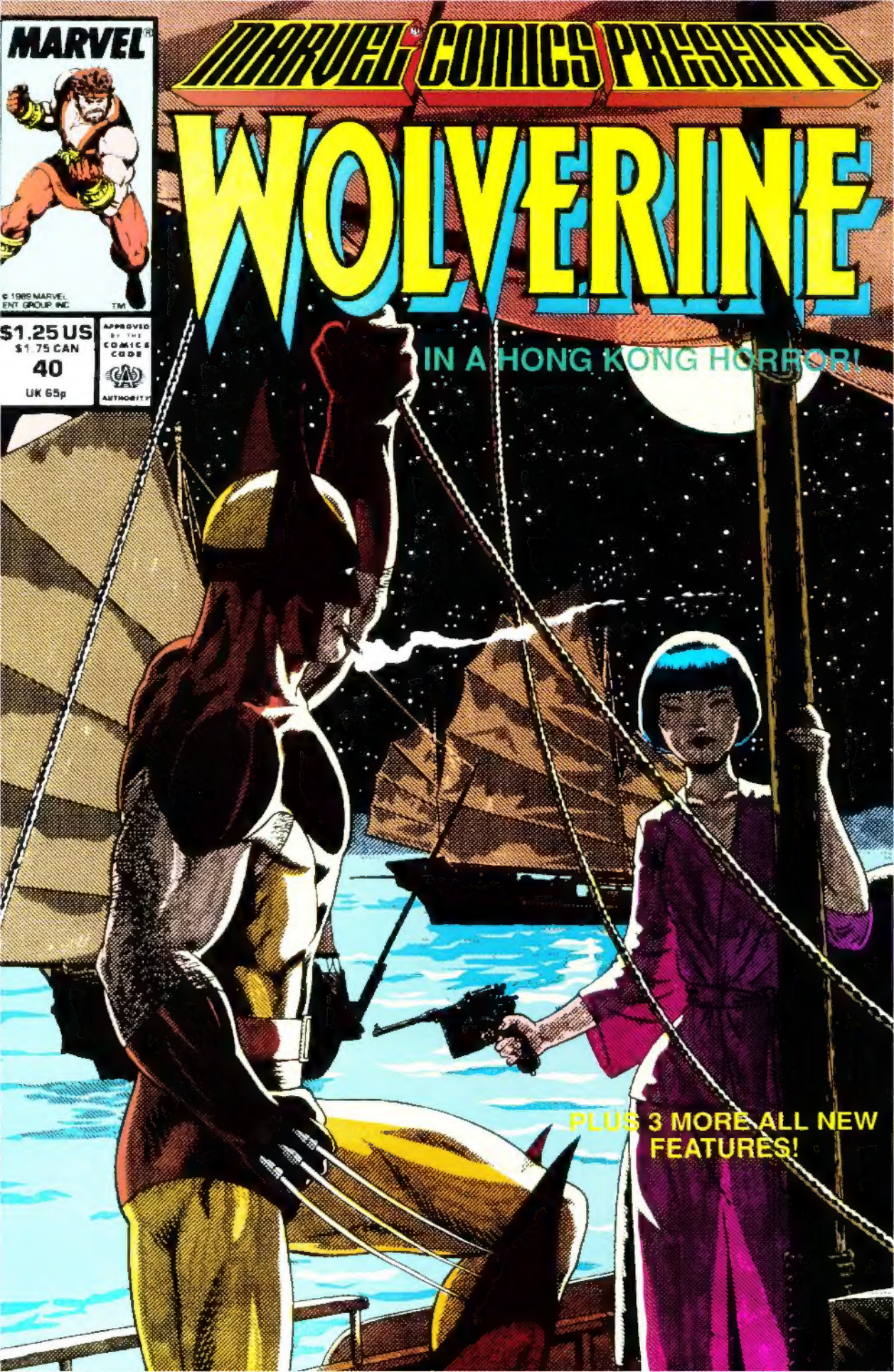
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AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
IN A HONG KONG HORROR!
PLUS 3 MORE ALL NEW FEATURES!

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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WOLVERINE "BLACK SHADOW WHITE SHADOW" 1

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WONDER MAN "STARDUST MISERIES" 9

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HERCULES "ALL IN THE FAMILY" 17

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OVERMIND 25

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"HONG KONG INFERNO" — PART 3 OF 10

Wolverine is led to a secret underground grotto by a Chinese woman named Mai, and her friends, Hsiao and Ch'un. Logan is told that they are hunting the Black Shadow, a creature who destroyed a city street in Hong Kong. Before they can create a plan, the Black Shadow appears once again. Wolverine attacks and is almost destroyed as a second creature appears, this time a menacing White Shadow. The two shadow creatures are about to battle each other, with an unconscious Wolverine caught between them.

"SOME ENCHANTED EVENING" — PART 3 OF 8

There's nothing like spending an evening with an old friend. But, if you're the bludgeoning, blue-furred Beast and that old friend is WONDER MAN — you may not get what you expected!

Has Wonder Man lost his *mind* — or is there more to this picture than meets the eye?

"THE HIT" — PART 2 OF 3

The Emperor Mother has set her plan for Galactic domination into motion. With Skyppi the Skrull, in the form of Emperor Arimathes, under her control, Layana has sent the Elite of the Assassin's Guild to capture and detain her son. As for Hercules and those who stand with him — *death* awaits.

" ANYTHING"

He was the vessel for the collective intelligence of a warrior race that has long since died. He roamed the stars in search of conquest, but met defeat against the heroes of Earth. Now sharing his consciousness and incredible mental powers with six of our planet's most powerful telepaths, Overmind has learned that not all wars take place on the battlefield.

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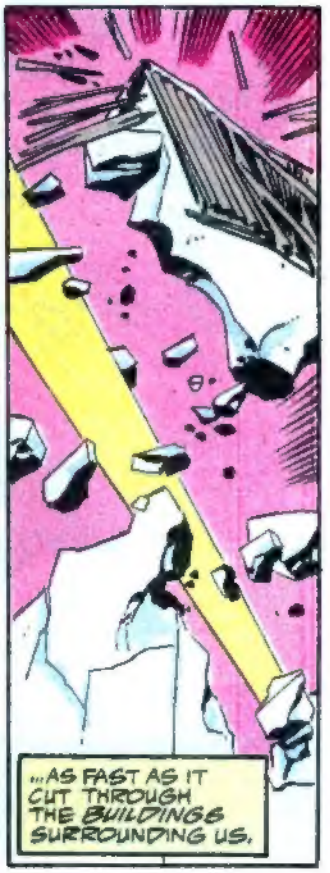
BLACK SHADOW! WHITE SHADOW!
PART III
FEATURING...
WOLVERINE
I WAS FADIN' IN AN' OUT WHILE BLACK SHADOW AND WHITE SHADOW CIRCLED ME LIKE BOXERS WAITIN' FOR THE OTHER TO STRIKE FIRST.
TROUBLE IS, ONE OF 'EM HAD VAPORIZED A CITY STREET JUST BY TOUCHIN' IT...
...NOW THEY WERE JUST INCHES AWAY FROM DOING THE SAME TO ME.
HONG KONG INFERNO!

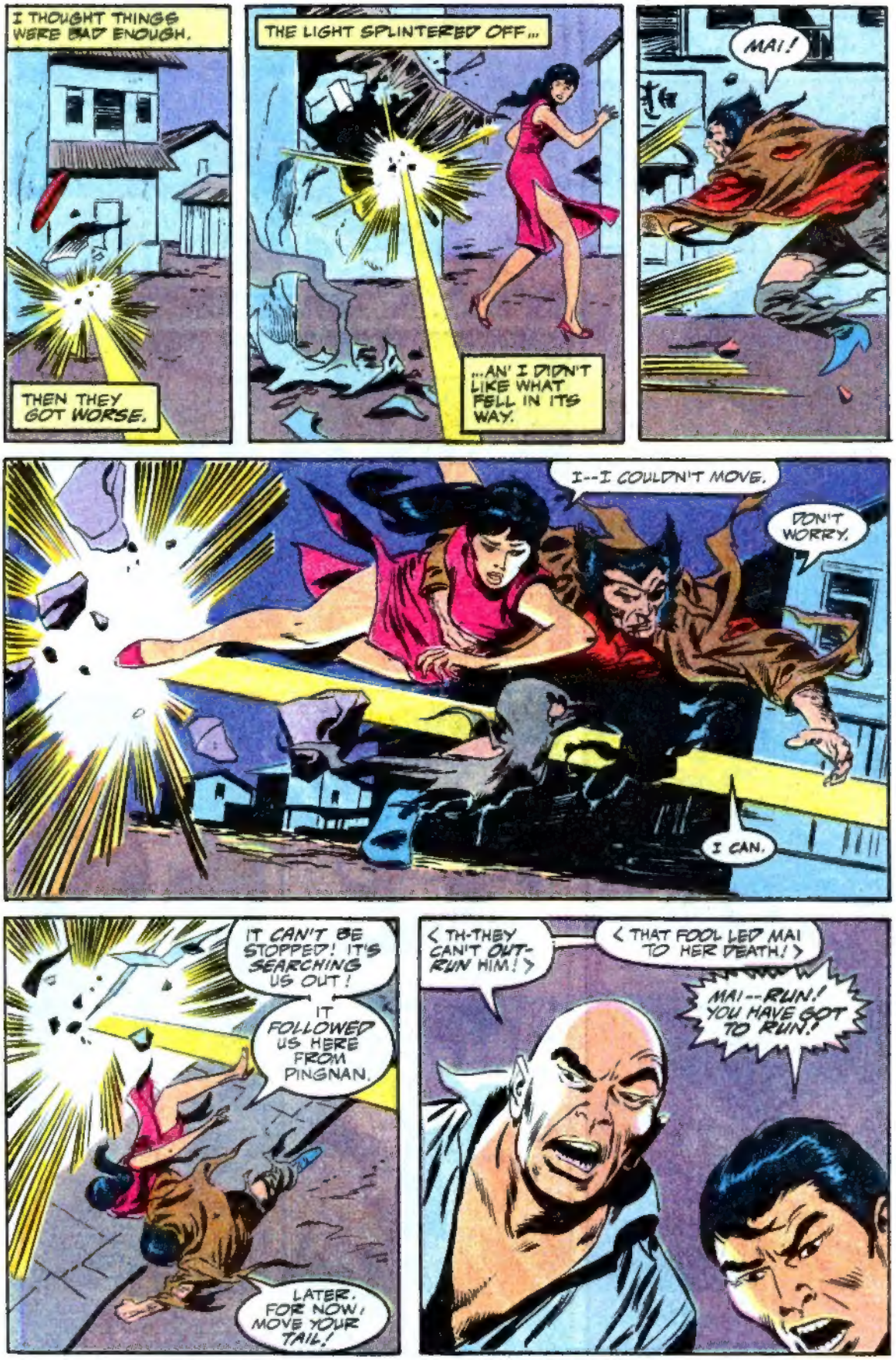
THEY SLAMMED TOGETHER, SILENT AS SHADOWS.

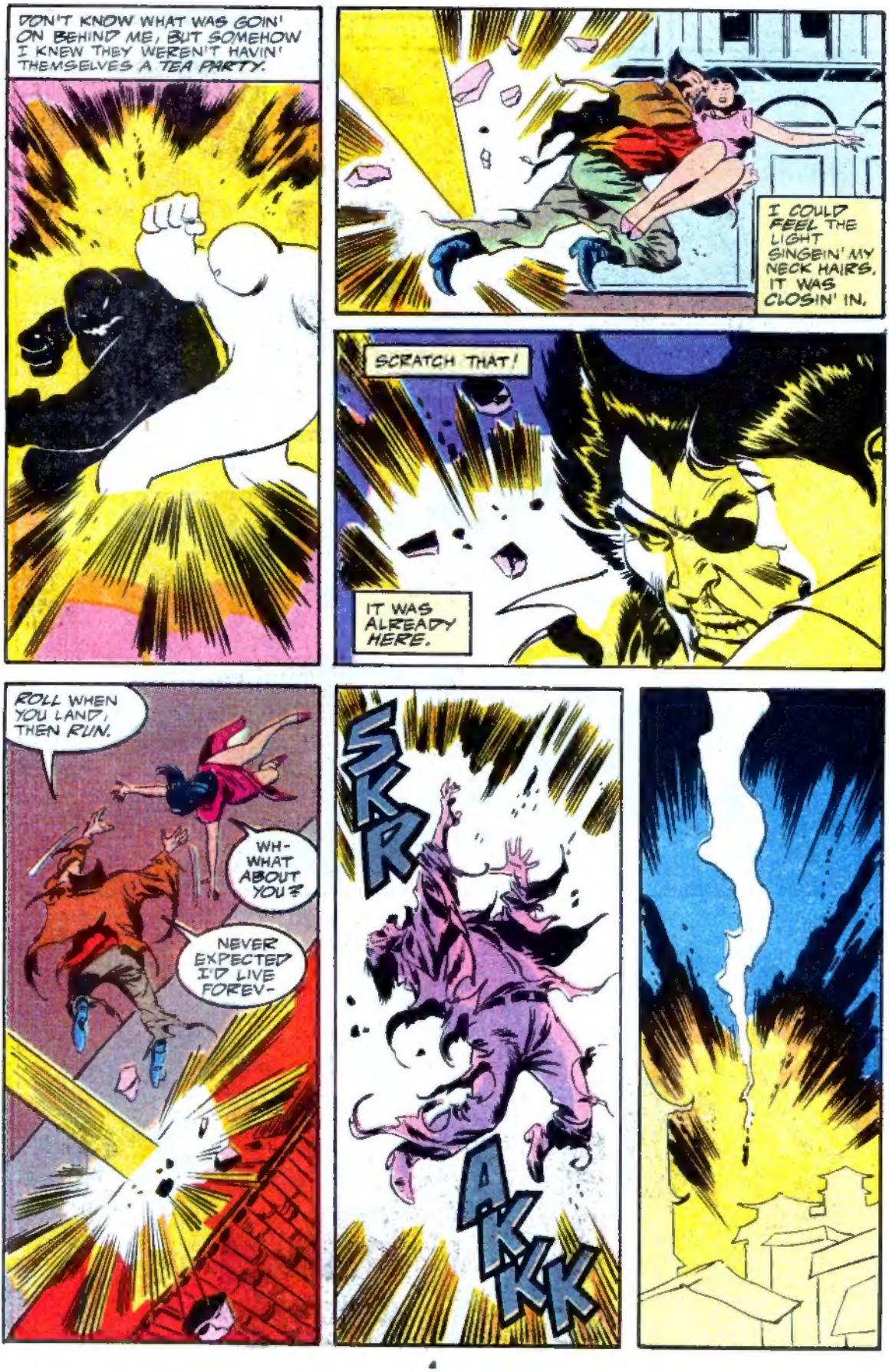
BUT IT WAS THE CRACKLE OF LIGHT THAT SPARKED BETWEEN 'EM WHEN THEY CLASHED THAT SCREAMED LIKE A BANSHEE TRYIN' TO WHISPER.

IT WAS RATTLIN' THROUGH MY BONES, SHAKIN' 'EM, TRYIN' TO RIP 'EM APART.
IF MY BONES WEREN'T LACED WITH ADAMANTIUM WHICH MADE 'EM VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE, I'D HAVE BEEN TORN TO SHREDS...

...BY THE ENERGY THE SHADOWS RELEASED...


...AS FAST AS IT CUT THROUGH THE BUILDINGS SURROUNDING US.


I THOUGHT THINGS WERE BAD ENOUGH.
THEN THEY GOT WORSE.
THE LIGHT SPLINTERED OFF...
...AN' I DIDN'T LIKE WHAT FELL IN ITS WAY.
MAI!
I--I COULDN'T MOVE.
DON'T WORRY.
I CAN.
IT CAN'T BE STOPPED! IT'S SEARCHING US OUT!
IT FOLLOWED US HERE FROM PINGNAN.
LATER. FOR NOW, MOVE YOUR TAIL!
< TH-THEY CAN'T OUT-RUN HIM! >
< THAT FOOL LED MAI TO HER DEATH! >
MAI--RUN! YOU HAVE GOT TO RUN!


DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOIN' ON BEHIND ME, BUT SOMEHOW I KNEW THEY WEREN'T HAVIN' THEMSELVES A TEA PARTY.
I COULD FEEL THE LIGHT SINGEIN' MY NECK HAIRS, IT WAS CLOSIN' IN.
SCRATCH THAT!
IT WAS ALREADY HERE.
ROLL WHEN YOU LAND, THEN RUN.
WH- WHAT ABOUT YOU?
NEVER EXPECTED I'D LIVE FOREV-
SKR
AKKK

< THEY'RE GONE AGAIN. JUST LIKE THAT. >
< H'SIAO, IS HE ALIVE? >
< TELL ME. >
< HE BREATHES, BUT IT IS SHALLOW. VERY WEAK. >
< I ... NOT ... IF ... SURVIVE ... >
< ... MUST ... HE ... >
< ... MUST ... >
"... TOOK 'EM, THEN HE LEFT?"
INCESS BAR
I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT.
I HAVE SPOKEN TO LAWYER YOU SENT ME TO. HE SAY CAN BRING MY CHILDREN BACK FROM HONG KONG.
I HAVE FINALLY MY VISA AND I GO TO-NIGHT.
BUT I WANTED FIRST TO THANK YOU, PATCH.
WITHOUT YOUR HELP, I WOULD NOT HAVE HAD COURAGE TO GO FOR THEM.
PETER, HE--HE HURT ME SO MUCH AND I WAS SO AFRAID.
NOTHIN' TO BE AFRAID OF, LINN. YOU JUST REMEMBER THAT.
ANY PROBLEMS, YOU CALL.
I'LL GET THE NEXT TRANSPORT. UNDER-STAND?
UNDER-STAND.
MR. PATCH. MISTER PATCH!
YOU THERE, MR. PATCH?
OH, YOU ARE HERE. GOOD.
YEAH?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THEY SENT ME FOR YOU, MR. PATCH. TO TELL YOU.
SHE IS DEAD.
WHO YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, KID? WHO'S DEAD?
MRS. CHOW. LINN CHOW. SHE IS DEAD... IN HONG KONG.
WE HEARD YOU WERE COMING HERE.
GOT A LEGAL VISA. WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
HONG KONG IS NOT A FRIENDLY PLACE, MR. "PATCH."
WE DO NOT WANT IT TO BECOME EVEN LESS SO.
SHOW ME THE WOMAN AN' EVERYTHIN'LL BE FINE.
HOPE YOU GOT A GOOD REASON.
THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE.
I IGNORE THREATS, MR. "PATCH." BE PLEASED THAT I DO.
THERE WAS SOME MANNER OF FORCE. ONE THAT APPEARS BRIEFLY AND DESTROYS ALL WITHIN ITS PERIMETERS.
YOUR WOMAN FRIEND WAS TOO CLOSE. THERE IS NOTHING LEFT OF HER NOW.
I AM SORRY.
WORD TO THE WISE, MR. "PATCH." THERE IS NOTHING HERE FOR YOU TO DO. GO HOME.
AN' MISS ALL THE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS?
YOU GOT TO BE KIDDIN'.
"HEAR ME? DO YOU HEAR ME?"

DO YOU--
HIS EYES OPEN!
WHAT? WHERE THE HE--
OH YEAH... YEAH.
YOU SURVIVED?
I'M A SURVIVOR, CH'UN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDUMBER?
THEY DISAPPEARED. AS THEY ALWAYS DO.
THEY APPEAR, THEY DESTROY, THEN THEY ARE GONE.
IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME.
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO START EXPLAININ'--
WAIT!
FIRST IT IS TIME FOR ME TO APOLOGIZE.
SOME PEOPLE SAY THEY WILL HELP THEN DON'T.
TOO FEW ARE AS GOOD AS THEIR WORD.
ACCEPTED.
MAI, IT IS DARK AND THE CLOUDS COVER THE MOON.
WE MUST LEAVE NOW.
YOU HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH FOR US, MISTER--
CALL ME "PATCH."
AN' DON'T BOTHER FINISHIN' WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.
I'M COMING.
THEN WE GO
TO CHINA!

CHINA--NOT A MILLION MILES AWAY, BUT POKIN' OUT JUST OVER THE HORIZON.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GETTIN' MY-SELF INTO...

...BUT I KNEW THERE WAS A JOB THAT HAD TO BE DONE.
THAT WAS ENOUGH, WHATEVER ELSE...

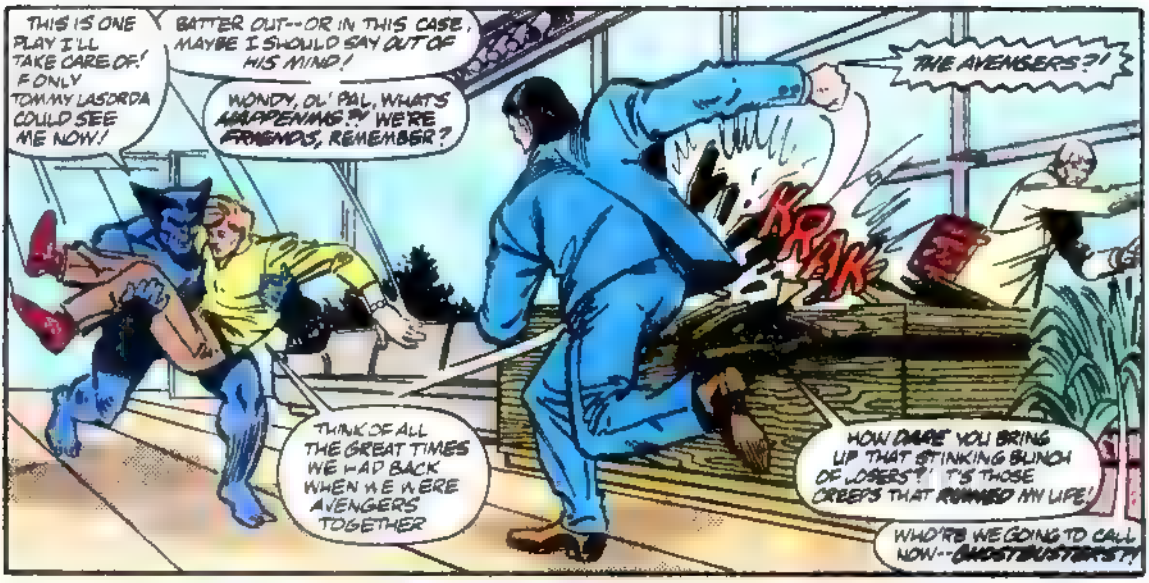
...JUST DIDN'T MUCH MATTER.
PATCH, YOU HAVE ONE LAST CHANCE TO GO HOME.
NO.
THREW THAT CHANCE AWAY YEARS AGO.

YOU CAN STAY WHERE YOU ARE, YOU CAN PUSH AHEAD.
YOU CAN EVEN GO IN CIRCLES IF THAT'S WHAT TURNS YOU ON...

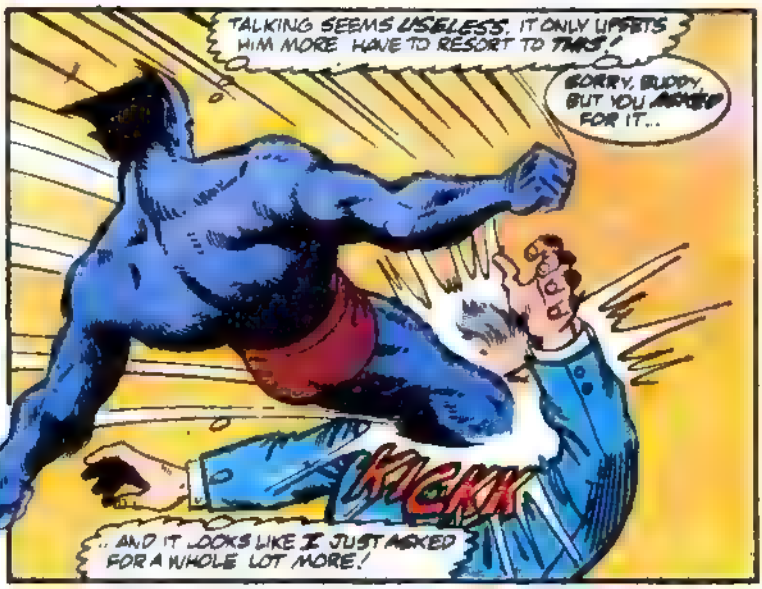
...BUT YOU NEVER GO BACK.
'CAUSE THAT'S WHERE EVERY-THING YOU LEFT IS WAITIN'.
"WHITE SHADOW, BLACK SHADOW"
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

WONDER MAN
SOME ENCHANTED EVENING
Stardust Miseries
PART 3
PHSST
CUT THAT OUT!
HAIR SP
FIRM
ARE YOU FOLKS OUT OF YOUR MINDS?
POOF
POOF

CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS SERIOUS!
WELL, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW WE ALL TAKE OUR JOBS SERIOUSLY AROUND HERE!
GLAD TO HEAR IT. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WONDER MAN IS A LITTLE MORE OF A PROBLEM THAN MY MAKE-UP!
STAND STILL, BEAST!
SWOOOSSH
AND LET YOU MUSS MY HAIR? LOOKS LIKE I MAY NEED YOU GIRLS AFTER ALL!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, ED?
I DON'T KNOW JOHNNY, I GUESS I JUST DON'T KNOW!
EVEN "KARNAK" COULDN'T PREDICT THIS ONE!
CLEAR OUT! THERE WILL BE NO PERFORMANCE TONIGHT!
GUESS THAT ANSWERS THE BIG QUESTION!
THIS ISN'T STAGED IT'S FOR REAL!
GAWSHMY!
LEAVE OUTTA HERE!
MISS LORELEI
EH?
OH! IN ALL THE CONFUSION I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN I'D ADOPTED MY SISTER'S NAME AS A PART OF THIS CHARADE!
IT ISN'T SAFE HERE. PERHAPS I COULD SHOW YOU--
I ASSURE YOU, MR. SEVRINSON, I AM PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF MYSELF!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST BLOW?
SO MUCH FOR WORKING MY MAGIC ON HER!
WHAT A SCOOP! ALL I GOTTA DO IS STAY CALM AND KEEP SHOOTING
I COULD WIN AN AWARD FOR THIS!
I COULD BE FAMOUS!
I COULD BE--
YIPES! I COULD BE KILLED!
OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS!
NEVER FEAR, BASEBALL FANS..

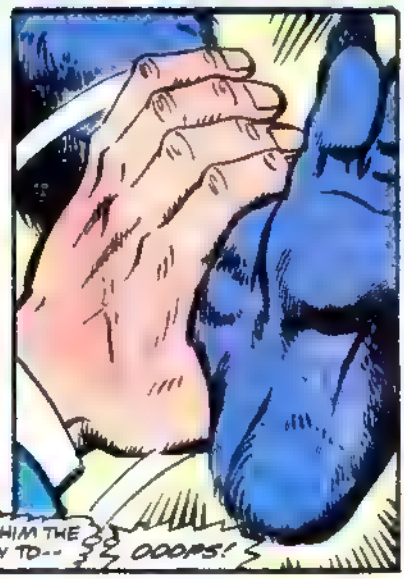

THIS IS ONE PLAY I'LL TAKE CARE OF! IF ONLY TOMMY LASORDA COULD SEE ME NOW!
BATTER OUT--OR IN THIS CASE, MAYBE I SHOULD SAY OUT OF HIS MIND!
WONDY, OL' PAL, WHAT'S HAPPENING?! WE'RE FRIENDS, REMEMBER?
THE AVENGERS?!
KRAK
THINK OF ALL THE GREAT TIMES WE HAD BACK WHEN WE WERE AVENGERS TOGETHER
HOW DARE YOU BRING UP THAT STINKING BUNCH OF LOSERS?! IT'S THOSE CREEPS THAT RUINED MY LIFE!
WHO'RE WE GOING TO CALL NOW--GHOSTBUSTERS?!

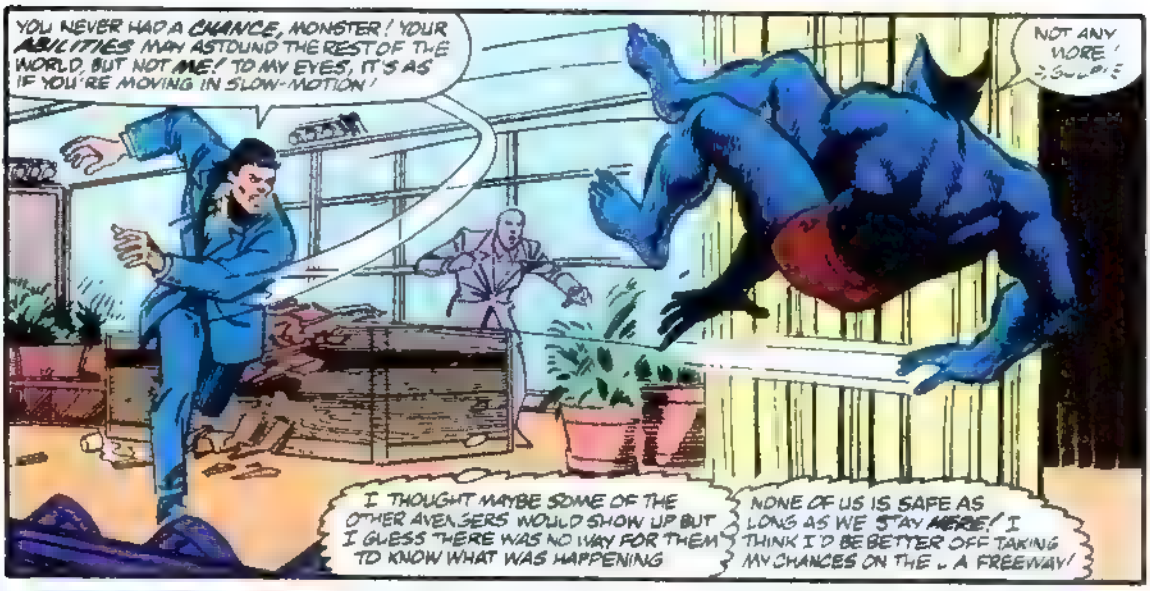
I ONLY WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE! WE'VE CLEARED THE AUDIENCE, BUT WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?
THIS IS WAY OUT OF OUR LEAGUE! ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE THAT THE BEAST CAN TALK SOME SENSE INTO WONDER-MAN--OR TAKE HIM OUT!


TALKING SEEMS USELESS. IT ONLY UPSETS HIM MORE. HAVE TO RESORT TO THIS!
SORRY, BUDDY, BUT YOU ASKED FOR IT..
KICKK
.. AND IT LOOKS LIKE I JUST ASKED FOR A WHOLE LOT MORE!

SAY YOUR PRAYERS, MUTANT, TO WHATEVER DEMON COULD SPAWN A THING LIKE YOU!
YEP! HE'S MAD ALL RIGHT! JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO SET HIM OFF!

THERE'S MORE TO THIS PICTURE THAN MEETS THE EYE!
AND IF I WANT TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT..
..I'VE GOT TO KEEP ON HIM!


CAN'T GIVE HIM THE OPPURTUNITY TO--
OOOPS!

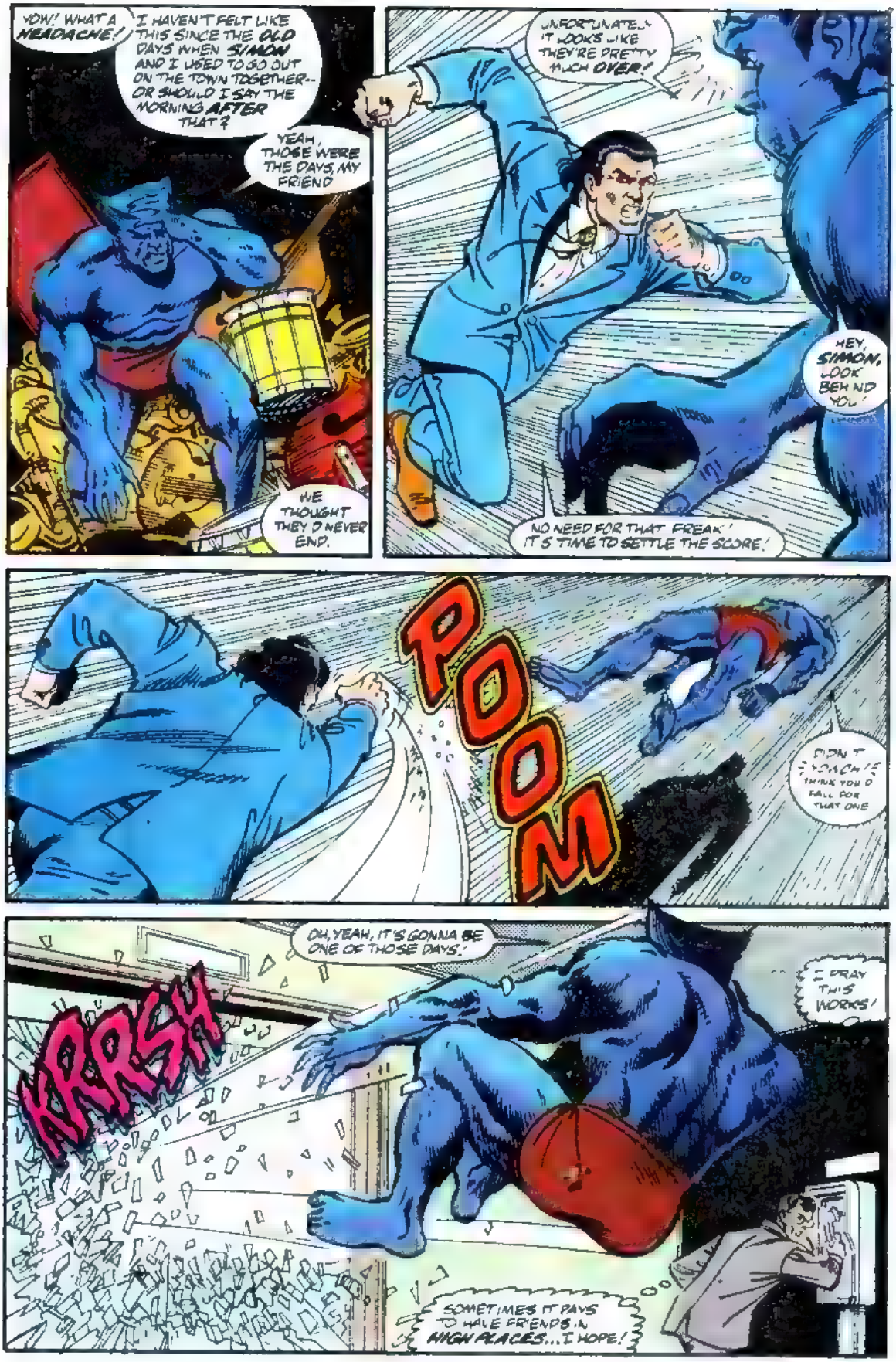

YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE, MONSTER! YOUR ABILITIES MAY ASTOUND THE REST OF THE WORLD, BUT NOT ME! TO MY EYES, IT'S AS IF YOU'RE MOVING IN SLOW-MOTION!
NOT ANY MORE! GULP!
I THOUGHT MAYBE SOME OF THE OTHER AVENGERS WOULD SHOW UP BUT I GUESS THERE WAS NO WAY FOR THEM TO KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING
NONE OF US IS SAFE AS LONG AS WE STAY HERE! I THINK I'D BE BETTER OFF TAKING MY CHANCES ON THE L.A. FREEWAY!

FORGET THE INSTRUMENTS! THEY CAN BE REPLACED, YOU CAN'T--NOT TO MENTION ALL THE INSURANCE PAYOUTS / EVACUATE THE SET!
IN ALL MY YEARS AS PRODUCER OF THE TONIGHT SHOW...
KERASH

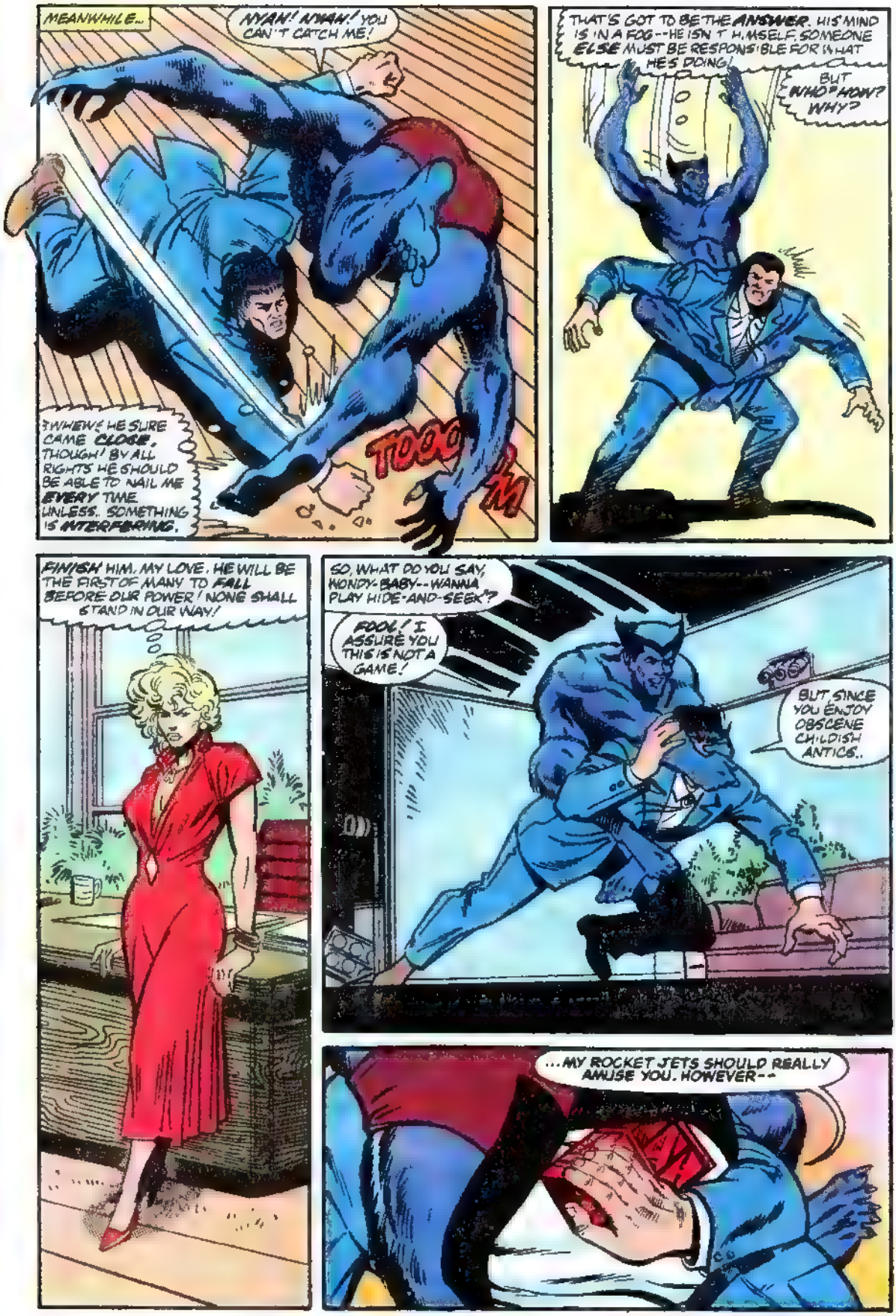
...NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED! QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU DO NOW, FREDDY? THOSE BOZOS COULD RUIN THE PLACE!
WAITAMINUTE! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

UH, DOC, YOU HEARD WHAT MR DACORDOVA SAID. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO FOR A DRINK?
I'M WITH YOU, ED! I'M WITH YOU! RIGHT NOW I'LL GO ANYWHERE MY HORNS WILL BE SAFE!

THIS IS ONE TIME THE SHOW WON'T GO ON! NONE OF MY MARRIAGES EVEN WENT THIS BAD!
SEE YOU GUYS TOMORROW. THAT'S THE ONLY SET LEFT TO COME BACK TO!

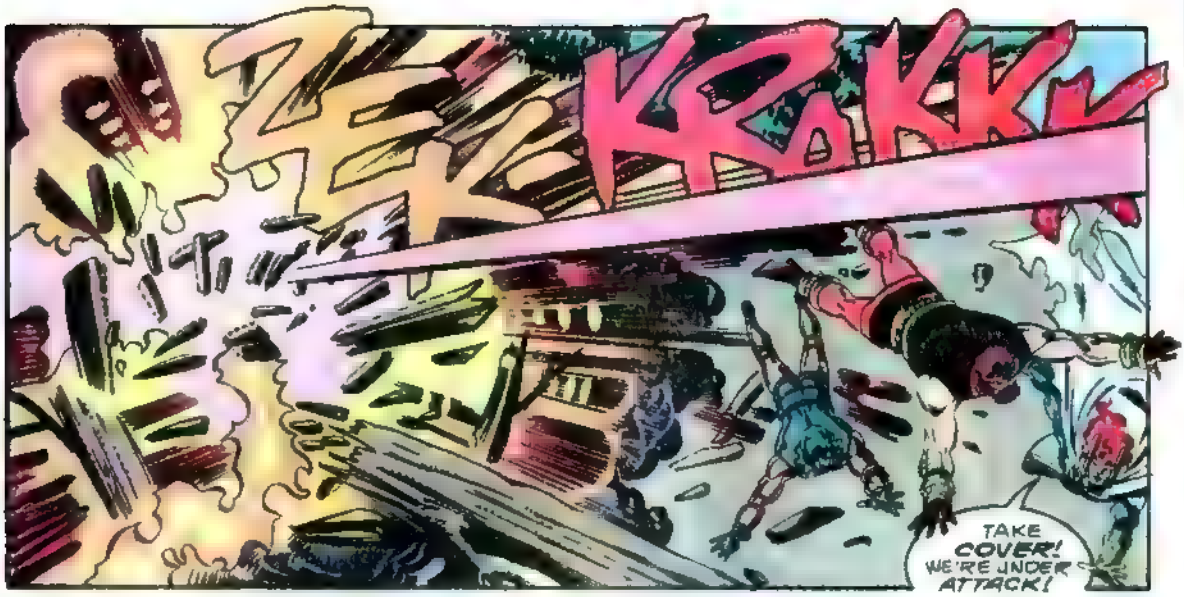

YOW! WHAT A HEADACHE!
I HAVEN'T FELT LIKE THIS SINCE THE OLD DAYS WHEN SIMON AND I USED TO GO OUT ON THE TOWN TOGETHER-- OR SHOULD I SAY THE MORNING AFTER THAT?
YEAH, THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MY FRIEND
WE THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER END.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE PRETTY MUCH OVER!
HEY, SIMON, LOOK BEHIND YOU!
NO NEED FOR THAT, FREAK! IT'S TIME TO SETTLE THE SCORE!
POOM
DIDN'T THINK YOU'D FALL FOR THAT ONE
KRRSH
OH, YEAH, IT'S GONNA BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS.
I PRAY THIS WORKS!
SOMETIMES IT PAYS TO HAVE FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES... I HOPE!

MR PRESIDENT, I HOPE I'M NOT DISTURBING YOU THIS IS FRED DACORDOVA AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!
I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE HAVE A DESPERATE SITUATION INVOLVING WONDER MAN AND THE BEAST!
WELL... FREDDY. IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO HEAR FROM AN OLD FRIEND EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF ROLE ARE YOU OFFERING ME?
WELL... I'M PLEASED YOU STILL THINK OF ME AS A WONDER-MAN FRED BUT I DON'T KNOW IF BONZO WOULD BE SO HAPPY TO HEAR YOU CALL HIM A BEAST!
HE'S REALLY QUITE A SENSITIVE GUY! AND, FREDDY YOU CAN COUNT ME IN, I'D LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU AND BONZO AGAIN.
AFTER ALL... WE OLD-TIMERS SHOULD STICK TOGETHER IN THIS GREAT NEW ERA--THE AGE OF SEQUELS!
WHAT WILL IT BE THIS TIME? BONZO GOES TO WASHINGTON?
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT MR. PRESIDENT!
THERE'S A VIOLENT OUTBREAK AND I COULD USE SOME HELP! IT'S GROWING MORE AND MORE OUT OF HAND WITH EVERY WASTED MINUTE!
WELL... I'D SAY TO CALL GEORGE BUSH... I THINK HE'S PRESIDENT NOW... OR IS IT THAT QUAYLE KID? BUT PRESIDENT BUSH PROMISES A KINDER, GENTLER, NATION.
I DON'T THINK VIOLENCE IS HIS DEPARTMENT, AT LEAST NOT ANYMORE! NOT AFTER THAT IRAN SCANDAL... AND... WELL... I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO HURT BONZO!
I TELL YOU WHAT, WHY DON'T YOU DO WHAT I ALWAYS DID IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS? CALL AL HAIG.
AND YOU CAN JUST SEND THE CONTRACT FOR THE BONZO SEQUEL WHENEVER YOU HAVE A FREE MOMENT.
NICE TALKING TO YOU, FREDDY, AND GIVE BONZO MY LOVE.
BUT, RONZO! I THOUGHT I MADE ALL YOUR DECISIONS FOR YOU!
DON'T WORRY, NANCY! YOU'RE NOT RUNNING THE COUNTRY ANYMORE


MEANWHILE...
NYAH! NYAH! YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!
WHEW! HE SURE CAME CLOSE, THOUGH! BY ALL RIGHTS HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO NAIL ME EVERY TIME UNLESS.. SOMETHING IS INTERFERING.
TOOO M
THAT'S GOT TO BE THE ANSWER. HIS MIND IS IN A FOG--HE ISN'T HIMSELF. SOMEONE ELSE MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HE'S DOING!
BUT WHO? HOW? WHY?
FINISH HIM, MY LOVE. HE WILL BE THE FIRST OF MANY TO FALL BEFORE OUR POWER! NONE SHALL STAND IN OUR WAY!
SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY, HONDY-BABY--WANNA PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK?
FOOL! I ASSURE YOU THIS IS NOT A GAME!
BUT SINCE YOU ENJOY OBSCENE CHILDISH ANTICS..
...MY ROCKET JETS SHOULD REALLY AMUSE YOU. HOWEVER--

--THE LAST LAUGH IS ON YOU!
THESE ROCKETS CAN FRY AS WELL AS FLY!
YEAARRGH!
FWOOM
I GUESS HE WASN'T AMUSED!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
LET THIS BE A SIGN TO THE REST OF THE ACCURSED AVENGERS!
I HAVE NO USE FOR ANY OF THEM.
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I WANT-- ONE PERSON I NEED!
WHA--? WHERE?!
NO! SHE CAN'T BE GONE! SHE CAN'T BE!
DON'T WORRY HANDSOME THE ENCHANTRESS WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU! WE WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER!
YOU'VE DONE WELL TODAY, MY LOVE, BUT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING NOW IT'S TIME FOR REVENGE!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

NOTHING LIKE A STROLL IN THE GARDEN TO CLEAR THY--
EH..? WHAT, PRAY TELL DOES THIS SCARLET DOT PORTEND?
STATEMENT: OH-- THAT'S ELEMENTARY, HERCULES. THE DOT ORIGINATES FROM A HIGHLY-SOPHISTICATED LASER-TARGETING SYSTEM.
MOST STATE-OF-THE-ART WEAPONRY IS EQUIPPED WITH THEM IT'S STANDARD--
FATHER! HE'S SAYING THAT SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO INCINERATE YOU!
ALL IN THE FAMILY PART 2
HERCULES IN THE HILL



AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE AUDIENCE CHAMBER OF THE **PALACE**...

EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE! AS SOON AS THE REAL **ARIMATHES** IS INCARCERATED WHERE NO ONE WILL FIND HIM--
--I'LL SEIZE TOTAL CONTROL OF THE **WILIMEAN EMPIRE** ONCE AGAIN!
SOMETHIN' WEIRD GOIN' ON HERE!
YEAH, I THINK WE BEST FORGET THAT THREE-DAY PASS COMIN' UP!

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE GARDEN..

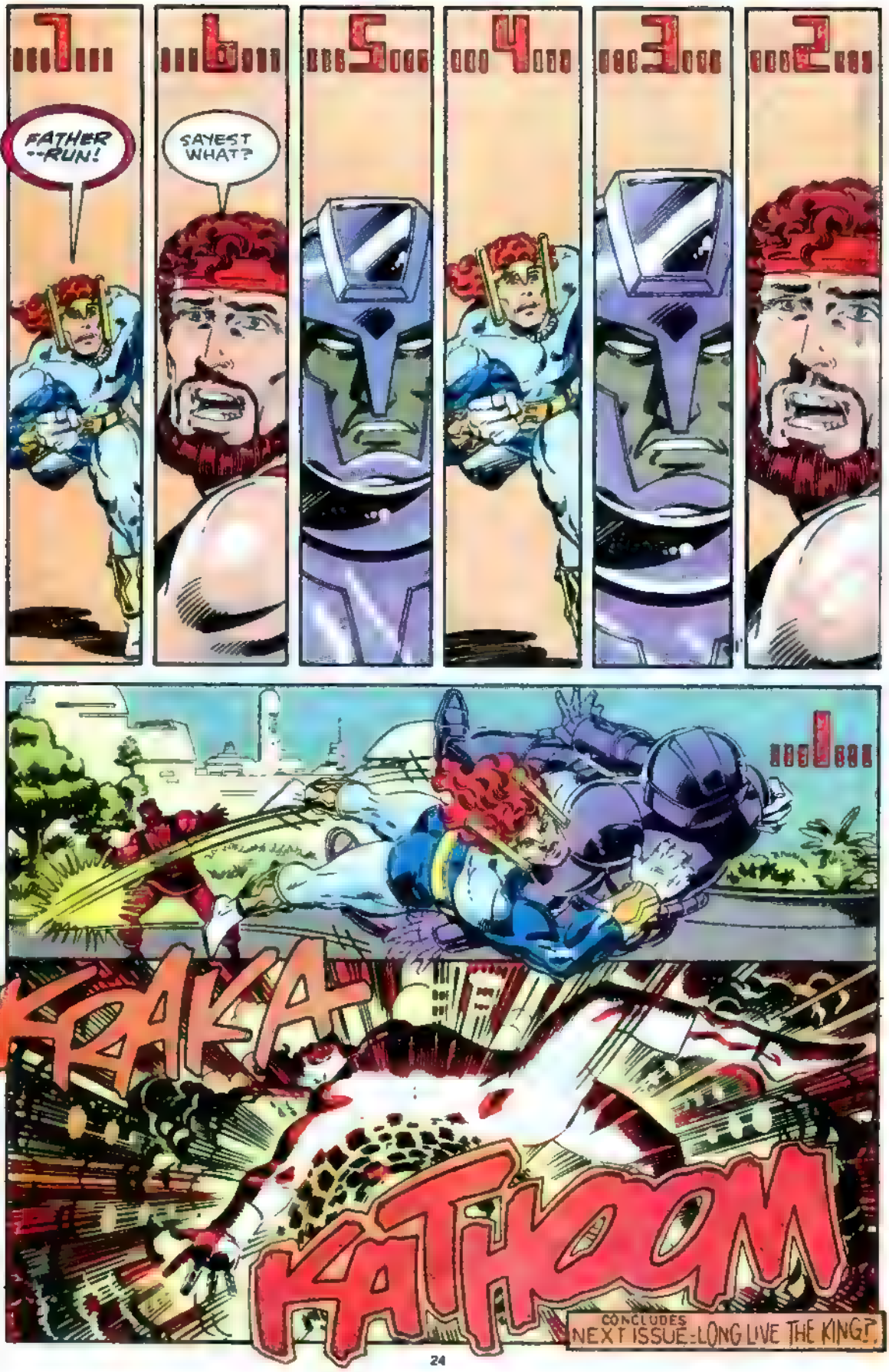
--SINCE YOU WON'T LIVE TO IDENTIFY US!
WE REPRESENT THE ELITE OF THE ASSASSINS' GUILD! YOU HAVE NO POSSIBLE HOPE OF VICTORY!
BUT I AM EMPOWERED TO OFFER YOU A BARGAIN, HERCULES! SURRENDER THE EMPEROR TO US AND--
--YOUR DEATH WILL BE SWIFT AND PAINLESS!
BASE COWARDS! THOU COST BARGAIN TO PRESERVE THINE OWN HIDES!
NO MOTLEY BAND OF CUTTHROATS IS A MATCH FOR OUR GODLY MIGHT!
IT'S ME THEY WANT, FATHER! SO--
--LET'S GIVE THEM MORE THAN THEY BARGAINED FOR!
ARIMATHES-- WAIT! DON'T...
VERY WELL, THEN--
--HAVE AT THEE!
DISPERSE AND ATTACK!
KA-TROOM

STAY CLOSE, ARIMATHES! THEY SEEM TO WANT THEE ALIVE, SO THEY SHANT USE THEIR DEADLIEST WEAPONS WITH THEE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY!
KER BLAM
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT! MY STRONGIUM BODY ARMOR CAN WITHSTAND ALMOST ANY PHYSICAL ASSAULT!
BUT WE CAN'T HAVE YOU TWO FIGHTING SIDE-BY-SIDE, SO ALLOW ME TO--
--COMPLICATE THINGS A BIT!
KHA BRAKKKKKKK
IGNOMINIOUS WRETCH! HE'S ATTACKING THY SUBJECTS' DWELLING PLACES! INNOCENT LIVES WILL BE LOST!

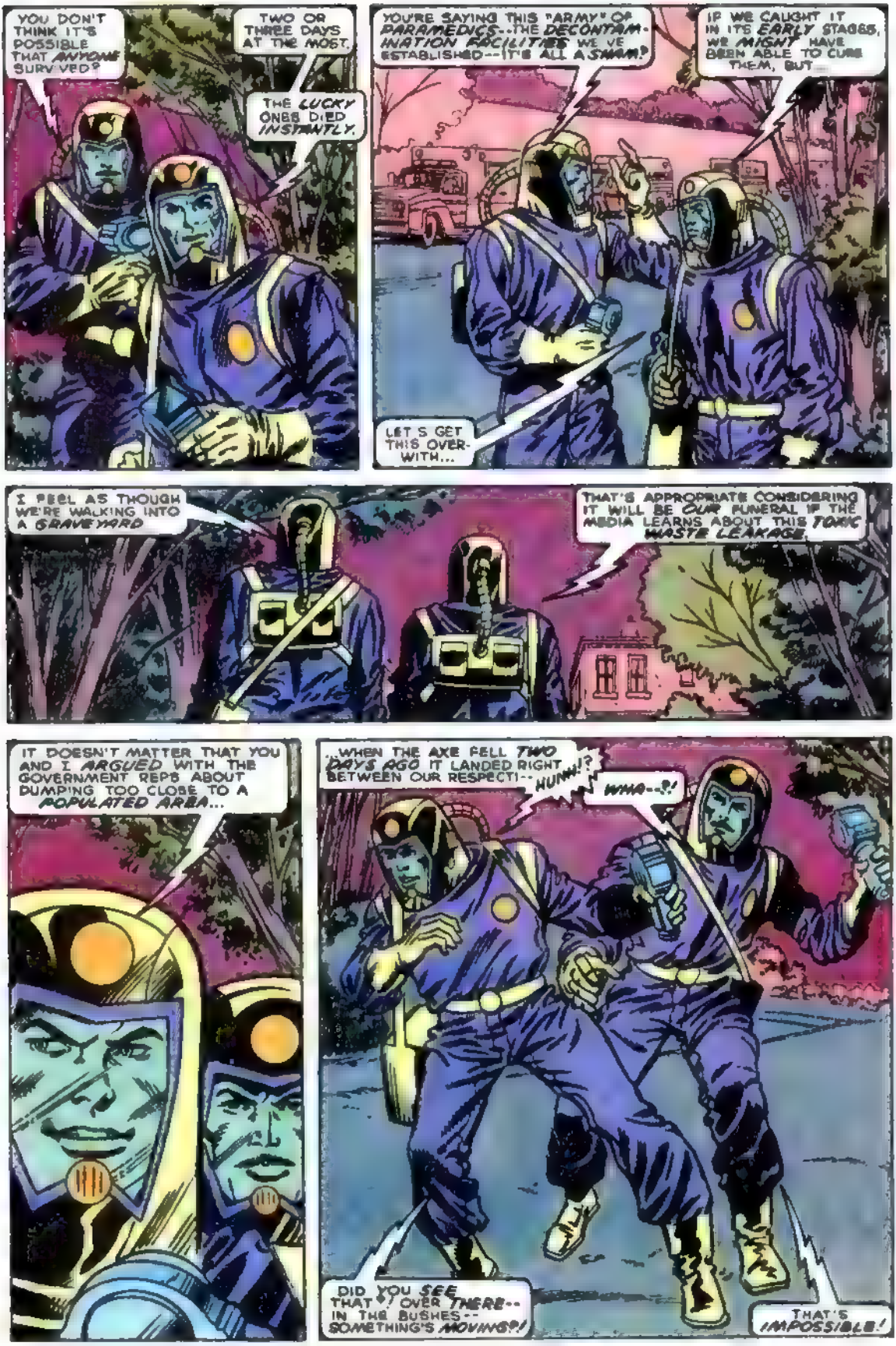
HOLD OFF THE OTHERS FOR A MOMENT..
BKOOM
.. WHILE I GIVE THIS CRAVEN ASSASSIN--
"--A MORE USEFUL FUNCTION IN LIFE!"
KER BLANG
YOU MAY HAVE FARED WELL AGAINST AKOOT! AND MALICON, BUT VIPERUS WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU, HERCULES!
ONE SCRATCH OF MY VENOM AND--

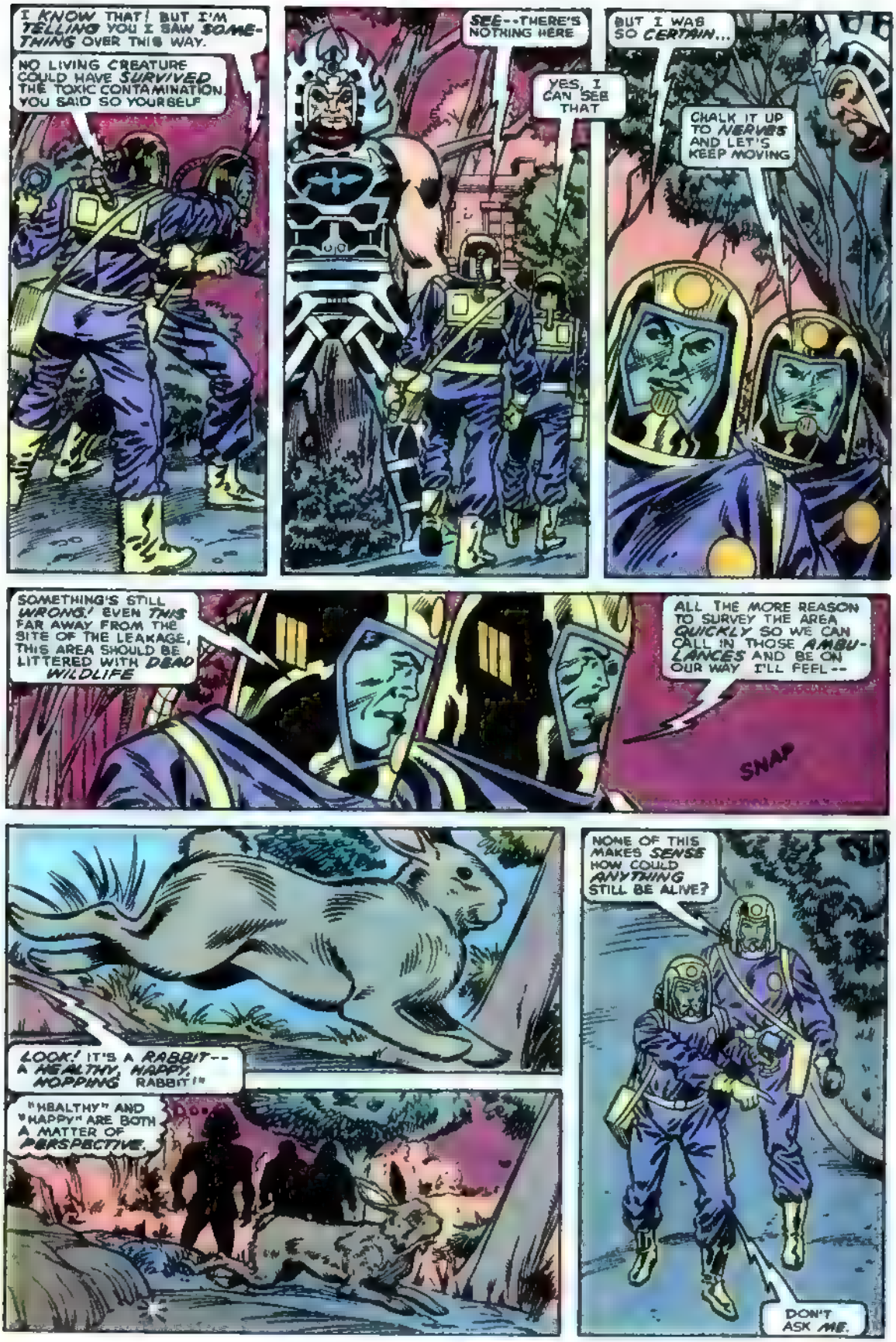
--SEARING DEATH AWAITS!
STATEMENT: MY SENSORS CONFIRM HIS CLAIM, HERCULES! I SUGGEST YOU NOT ALLOW HIM TO TOUCH YOU!
THEN-- FORGIVE ME, FRIEND RECORDER! FOR THOU ART--
--THE BEST PROTECTION AT HAND!
EXCLAMATION: SIR! PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION! MY CIRCUITRY IS--
--EXTREMELY DELICATE!
KA WHUMP
FATHER-- BEHIND YOU!

KER-
KA-
BLAM
FA-WHOK
WHAT BE THAT EARTH EXPRESSION: "THE BIGGER THEY ARE... ?"
NINE SECONDS TO TERMINATION...
EXCLAMATION: ARIMATHEA -- THE FINAL ASSASSIN IS CYBERNETIC! MY SENSORS INDICATE HE HAS ACTIVATED HIS DESTRUCT MODE!
WHAT?! OH.. NO.


7
FATHER --RUN!
6
SAYEST WHAT?
5
4
3
2
1
KAKA-
KATHOOM
CONCLUDES
NEXT ISSUE: LONG LIVE THE KING?

"...ANYTHING"
FEATURING OVERMIND
IT'S WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT THESE READINGS ARE ALMOST OFF THE SCALE!
WELCOME TO MILLWOOD, NEW HAMPSHIRE POPULATION, 800
THESE POOR PEOPLE...
THEY NEVER STOOD A CHANCE


YOU DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE THAT ANYONE SURVIVED?
TWO OR THREE DAYS AT THE MOST.
THE LUCKY ONES DIED INSTANTLY.
YOU'RE SAYING THIS "ARMY" OF PARAMEDICS--THE DECONTAMINATION FACILITIES WE'VE ESTABLISHED--IT'S ALL A SHAM?
IF WE CAUGHT IT IN ITS EARLY STAGES, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CURE THEM, BUT...
LET'S GET THIS OVER-WITH...
I FEEL AS THOUGH WE'RE WALKING INTO A GRAVEYARD
THAT'S APPROPRIATE CONSIDERING IT WILL BE OUR FUNERAL IF THE MEDIA LEARNS ABOUT THIS TOXIC WASTE LEAKAGE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT YOU AND I ARGUED WITH THE GOVERNMENT REPS ABOUT DUMPING TOO CLOSE TO A POPULATED AREA...
...WHEN THE AXE FELL TWO DAYS AGO IT LANDED RIGHT BETWEEN OUR RESPECT!--
HUNH!?
WHA--?!
DID YOU SEE THAT?! OVER THERE--IN THE BUSHES--SOMETHING'S MOVING?!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!


I KNOW THAT! BUT I'M TELLING YOU I SAW SOMETHING OVER THIS WAY.
NO LIVING CREATURE COULD HAVE SURVIVED THE TOXIC CONTAMINATION YOU SAID SO YOURSELF
SEE--THERE'S NOTHING HERE
YES, I CAN SEE THAT
BUT I WAS SO CERTAIN...
CHALK IT UP TO NERVES AND LET'S KEEP MOVING
SOMETHING'S STILL WRONG! EVEN THIS FAR AWAY FROM THE SITE OF THE LEAKAGE, THIS AREA SHOULD BE LITTERED WITH DEAD WILDLIFE
ALL THE MORE REASON TO SURVEY THE AREA QUICKLY SO WE CAN CALL IN THOSE AMBULANCES AND BE ON OUR WAY I'LL FEEL--
SNAP
LOOK! IT'S A RABBIT--A HEALTHY, HAPPY, HOPPING RABBIT!"
"HEALTHY" AND "HAPPY" ARE BOTH A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE.
NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE HOW COULD ANYTHING STILL BE ALIVE?
DON'T ASK ME.

...ASK THEM!
MORNING, MRS. COLLINS!
CAN I GIVE YOU A HAND?
SO SHE SAID...
WHAT A LOVELY DAY
THE P.T.A. MEETING IS TONIGHT
WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT WE'RE HAVING THE EXACT SAME HALLUCINATION?
I'D SAY ABOUT A BILLION TO ONE. BUT THAT'S JUST A ROUGH GUESS
HOWDY, STRANGERS!
I TAKE IT YOU TWO MUST BE NEW IN TOWN. WILL YOU BE STAYING LONG?
NOT AT ALL. JUST LONG ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT WHY THIS ENTIRE TOWN ISN'T DEAD
"ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED", MAYBE SOME PEOPLE MIGHT EVEN SAY, "BORING." I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT "DEAD" IS A BIT STRONG--
--BUT EVERYONE'S WELCOME TO THEIR OWN OPINION

MORNING, JOE! ARE THESE TWO FRIENDS OF YOURS?
NOT YET, BUT THEY SEEM LIKE UPSTANDING YOUNG FELLOWS
LOOK AT THESE READINGS THESE PEOPLE ARE SATURATED WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS.
EXCUSE US, OFFICER--
TED
EXCUSE US, ER-- TED IS THERE ANYBODY IN THIS TOWN WHO CAN TELL US WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
IF IT'S INFORMATION YOU WANT, YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH MR. OVERMIND. HE'S THE SMARTEST MAN IN TOWN.
HE'S TEACHING AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE DOWN THE ROAD. NOW ENJOY YOUR STAY HERE IN MILLWOOD, BOYS.
VIDEO
POLICE
UH. WE ARE WEARING CONTAINMENT SUITS, RIGHT?
YES
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ODD THAT NO ONE SEEMS TO NOTICE?
I THINK EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS TOWN IS ODD. THE SOONER WE'RE OUT OF HERE, THE HAPPIER I'LL BE.
THIS MUST BE THE SCHOOLHOUSE WHAT DO YOU SEE?
UMMMM-- LET'S GO INSIDE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU...
TO REITERATE, CHILDREN, LET ME ONCE AGAIN EMPHASIZE THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE SO LONG AS WE KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!
AS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF A RACE OF GALACTIC WARLORDS, ABANDONED AS I'VE BEEN ON EARTH, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WRESTLE WITH FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION AND HOPELESSNESS!

LOOK, CHILDREN! THE GUEST SPEAKERS THAT I PROMISED HAVE ARRIVED.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, "OVERMIND", YOU HAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
I'M SCARED! ARE THESE BAD MEN?
AARRON, DON'T YOU REMEMBER? MR. OVERMIND SAYS, "THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS 'BAD'. ONLY 'GOOD' AND 'VERY STUPID'."
VERY GOOD, DINA. NOW WOULD SOMEONE LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO OUR GUESTS WHO I AM?
TERRY...
MR. OVERMIND USED TO BE A VESSEL FOR THE COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE AND FRUSTRATION OF A DEAD RACE OF WARRIORS.
DURING A BATTLE INVOLVING THE DEFENDERS, HE FOUND HIMSELF POSSESSED WITH THE INTELLIGENCE AND COMPASSION OF SIX OF EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL TELEPATHS.
ONCE HE LEFT THE DEFENDERS, HE WANDERED AIMLESSLY, IN SEARCH OF A MEANS TO JUSTIFY HIS EXISTENCE. WHEN HE CAME ACROSS MILLWOOD...
HE USED HIS MENTAL POWER TO MANIPULATE THESE PEOPLE!
"MANIPULATE" IS SUCH AN AGGRESSIVE TERM.
YOU MANAGED TO CONVINCE THESE PEOPLE THAT THEY'RE IN PERFECT HEALTH--DESPITE THEIR EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS!
MORE ACCURATELY--
--I TAUGHT THEM TO SEE THE WORLD AS IT COULD BE...
...RATHER THAN THE WAY IT IS!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? WITHOUT ME, THESE PEOPLE WOULD BE DEAD.
MAYBE...
AND, MAYBE YOU'VE GIVEN US THE OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY CURE THEM.

I-IS THIS TRUE, MR. OVERMIND?
YOU MADE US BELIEVE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
I DON'T THINK ANY OF US ARE EAGER TO DIE FROM THIS HERE TOXIC POISONING, BUT IF THESE STRANGERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO CURE US...
PLEASE, MY FRIENDS, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.
BUT WE DO, MR. OVERMIND. WE'RE ASKING YOU TO GIVE US THE CHANCE TO PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACHED.
WHAT GOOD IS PARADISE IF IT'S NOT REAL?
THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO END IN TRAGEDY! WE HAVE RESOURCES AVAILABLE THAT MIGHT SAVE THESE PEOPLE.
I CAN SEE IN YOUR MIND THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT, BUT THERE IS DOUBT.
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO TAKE THAT CHANCE.
THAT ISN'T YOUR DECISION TO MAKE.
WHEN THE TOXIC CHEMICALS LEAKED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT, THESE PEOPLE LOST THEIR CHOICE TO LIVE OR DIE.
BY ALTERING THEIR MINDS, YOU'VE ACCELERATED THEIR BODIES' NATURAL HEALING ABILITIES. NO MATTER HOW NOBLE YOUR MOTIVE, YOU'VE ALSO PREVENTED THEM FROM TAKING CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES.
PLEASE--WON'T YOU GIVE US THE CHANCE, NO MATTER HOW SLIM, TO CHANGE THAT?
I'M SORRY.
MY ANSWER IS NO.
NOW GO! WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR CORRUPT LEADERS, YOU WILL WILL REMEMBER NOTHING.

B-BUT, MR. OVER-MIND...?
YES, DINA?
ONE OF THE FIRST LESSONS YOU TAUGHT US WAS THAT WE CAN DO ANYTHING IF WE TRY.
YOU AREN'T EVEN GIVING US A CHANCE TO TRY.
SO BE IT.
-CLIK- GET THOSE AMBULANCES DOWN HERE-- STAT!
HER HEARTBEAT IS WEAK, BUT STEADY. I THINK WE'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO PULL THIS OFF!
THE END.

WONDER MAN
VS. THE BEAST
THE RETURN OF
OVERMIND!
A FAMILY CRISIS FOR
HERCULES!